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EXAMINER

HUNG, YUBIN

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Appendix A

1. In the 3rd paragraph on P. 3 Applicant states that Fu does not teach or suggest softening edges intentionally before coding, which is correct but the deficiency is cured by Mitra as set forth in the Office action mailed 09/24/08 [see paragraph 6]. (Applicant quoted Col. 13, lines 52-56 of Fu; however, that passage discusses Fig. 3, not Fig. 5, which was cited in the rejection of claim 1. Additionally, Applicant asserts that edges “inevitably disappeared” in lines 4-5 in the 3rd paragraph. However, Fu only said that JPEG “tends to” soften edges; “tend to” is very different from “inevitable” and therefore there mostly will still be many edges that are not softened by the compression and Mitra’s teaching, namely to smooth the edges, is still very desirable.)

2. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re*

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Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, reasons to combine were given in the rejection of claim 1 in the 09/24/08 Office action (see paragraph 6).

/Yubin Hung/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624